

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, January 5, 1880, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Tremont House, Boston, Monday, January 5th, 1880. My sweet darling little wife:

You must have wondered why you received no note from New York, and the Grossmanns must have wondered why they received no visit from us on Sunday.

Let me narrate the strange and grievous misadventure that hurried us from New York dinnerless and without visiting or writing.

We called on Mr. McCurdy and the Marshes about noon after a long rest at the hotel and devoted the afternoon to a ramble about New York and specially to a visit to the Central office of the Bell Telephone Co. of N. Y. and you may imagine how tired and stiff we both were when we reached the hotel at nearly half-past four. Poor Charlie was suffering from his last horseback ride with Berta aggravated by a long walk through N. Y. I was almost as bad. We decided that it would be best to call on the Grossmann's in the evening after dinner as it would like inviting ourselves to stay to dinner or supper if we went then.

We both of us stretched our tired limbs in warm baths and both then retired to our rooms to dress for dinner. I thought it would be no harm if I lay down for a moment as Charlie would be sure to wake me if I fell asleep. Charlie did likewise!! It runs in the Bell blood!

And so —well! — we woke up last night at a quarter past nine o'clock!! Just in time to catch the train.

We rushed off dinnerless and hungry — and had only time to 2 dress — call a carriage — and rush to the depot. It was well after all that we had slept for we could not get a berth on the sleeping-car. We were not alone in this misfortune. Twenty-five growling gentlemen

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were carried off bedless by the train and we had to pack ourselves in uncomfortable postures into the seats of the smoking-car all night.

With much love.

Your affectionate husband, Alec. Mrs. Bell, 904 — 14th St., Washington.